

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Safety Act

On December 19, 2007, the United States Government signed into law the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. The effective date to for implementation was December 19, 2008. The Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) was designated to enforce this legislation. The CPSC requirements may necessitate alterations to the equipment or design of many public pools and spas. This law requires that covers and grates for wading pools, spas, and swimming pool drains, jet boosters systems and skimmer equalizer line(s) meet ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 performance standards for anti-entrapment, anti-entanglement and anti-evisceration. In addition to the anti-entrapment drain covers, any public swimming pool or spa with a single main drain must be equipped with, at a minimum, one or more devices or systems designed to prevent entrapment by pool or spa drains:

- 1. Safety Vacuum Release System
- 2. Suction- Limiting Vent System
- 3. Gravity Drainage System
- 4. Split the single main drain to dual drains
- 5. Automatic pump shut off
- 6. other systems as determined by the CPSC

Please note that for the purposes of compliance with this act, the equalizer line covers must also be equipped with approved anti-entrapment covers irrespective of how many main drains are in the pool. Equalizer lines must have a manufactured or field-built sump that provides a minimum separation of 1.5 times the inside pipe diameter between the bottom of the cover and the outlet pipe.

Placer County Division of Environmental Health has the responsibility for the oversight and regulation of public swimming pools and spas in Placer County. Any modifications made to a public swimming pool or spa must be reviewed and approved by this office prior to commencing construction activities. In order to complete a plan review, please submit the following:

- 1. Complete set of construction plans/work plan. This shall include manufacturer's information sheets on all of the equipment to be installed or replaced.
- Plan review fee of a minimum of two hours at the current hourly rate. If additional time is needed for the review, it will be billed after plan check and related construction inspections have been completed.

For the complete copy of the VGB Act go to http://www.cpsc.gov/BUSINFO/vgb/pssa.pdf.